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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 007731

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SUBJECT: FRANCE/GAERC: AGREEMENT ON MOST ISSUES EXCEPT  
CHINA EMBARGO

REF: A. STATE 195044

- [1](#)B. STATE 194956
- [1](#)C. PARIS 6778
- [1](#)D. PARIS 6757
- [1](#)E. PARIS 7661
- [1](#)F. PARIS 6784

Classified By: Acting DCM Josiah Rosenblatt for reasons 1.4 (B & D).

[1](#)1. (U) We shared refs A and B points December 5 with MFA CFSP Unit Deputy (DAS-equivalent) Emmanuel Cohet (all points), DAS-equivalent for industrial questions and sensitive exports Marc Abensour (China embargo), DAS-equivalent for the Levant Herve Besancenot (Israel-Palestinian conflict and Lebanon/Syria), and DAS-equivalent for the Gulf Franck Gellet (Iran).

[1](#)2. (C) Kosovo: Cohet described French and U.S. positions as the same, while alluding to French concerns about managing the Russian threat of a veto as raised by PolDir Araud with A/S Fried December 6 (septel).

[1](#)3. (C) Serbia: Cohet said France agrees with the U.S. and intends to hold the line for the time being on ICTY conditionality.

[1](#)4. (C) Israeli-Palestinian conflict: Cohet said France has no objections to U.S. points on the Rafah crossing and sharing of customs revenues. On MEPP, he insisted there would be no relaxing on Quartet conditions in the event of a National Unity Government. At the same time, achievement of an NUG would be an important step, and France believes the EU needs to be in a position to react positively.

[1](#)5. (C) Lebanon/Syria: Cohet said France is in full agreement. Post has reported extensively on French thinking on Lebanon. (See also refs C, D.)

[1](#)6. (C) Iran: Cohet France agrees with the U.S., especially the point on the need to strive for unity among the international community. He alluded to difficulties with Russia, as discussed by Araud and Fried. U/S Burns and ISA A/S Rood discussed next steps on Iran with their EU3 and other P-5 counterparts December 6. (See ref E for discussion of Iranian elections.)

[1](#)7. (C) Afghanistan: Cohet referred implicitly to the French proposal of a Contact Group in stressing France's desire to establish a comprehensive and coordinated approach to Afghanistan assistance. See also U/S Edelman's discussions with Chirac diplomatic advisor Gourdault-Montagne (ref F), and A/S Fried with Araud (septel).

[1](#)8. (C) China embargo: Abensour and Cohet both stressed that the GOF position on lifting the arms embargo remained unchanged, as does the EU position. Abensour noted that the

European Council, in its the December 2004 Summit conclusions, said that it would work toward lifting the embargo. Cohet added that the Council had reaffirmed this position in 2005 and again at the China-EU summit in 2006. Abensour called attention also to the October 2006 joint statement between French President Chirac and Chinese President Hu Jintao advocating that the embargo be lifted. Abensour described the embargo as "anachronistic" and said the GOF would say so in the December 11-12 GAERC meeting and the December 14-15 European Council meeting. He said that the embargo has had "no impact" on arms transfers to China. Cohet added that more stringent procedures in the EU Code of Conduct would serve the same purpose. He also noted that France did view human rights issues seriously, and that Chirac had raised the matter in his recent meetings with the Chinese. He called attention as well to the EU's human rights dialogue with China.

19. (C) Turkey-EU: DOD U/S Edelman discussed Turkey-EU December 1 with NSA-equivalent Maurice Gourdault-Montagne (MGM)(ref F), and A/S Fried discussed Turkey-EU December 6 with French PolDir Gerard Araud as well as December 7 with MGM (septels).

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